(a) the details of funds allocated for the maintenance of National Highways in the year 2004-05;

(b) whether it is a fact that some States have demanded more funds for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) An amount of Rs. 745.56 crore has been allocated for maintenance of National Highways during 2004-05.

(b) to (d) Seventeen States have demanded more funds for maintenance of National Highways. Some more funds have been allocated within the overall availability of resources taking into account the inter-se priority of works and utilization of funds by the States.

Road Accidents in Delhi

2600. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi, the capital continues to lead the other Metropolis in the matter of road deaths and road accidents;

(b) if so, the number of such deaths and accidents in each metropolis during the year 2001 and onwards, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for this continuing situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) As reported by the respective State/UT Governments, the number of road accidents and persons killed in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai in the years 2001 and 2002 were as under:-

Name of the cities	2001		2002	
	No. of road accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of road accidents	No. of persons killed
Delhi	9344	1842	8699	1696
Mumbai	26329	543	25470	475
Kolkata	10555	440	NA	NA
Chennai	5280	708	3682	500

NA-Not available

(c) Road accidents are caused by a number of factors such as driver's fault, mechanical defects in the vehicles, fault of pedestrians, bad road, bad weather etc.

Private Participation in Port Sector

2601. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maritime sector is aimed at promoting private participation in the shipping and port sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is fact that a rail corridor would be implemented between Delhi and Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the purpose thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The existing policy dispensation provides for private sector participation including foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Maritime Sector including Ports and Harbours, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport. The Government's endeavour is to provide a facilitative investor friendly environment with transparent procedures and decision making process for encouraging private sector participation in the Maritime Sector. This is an on-going process.